

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W

----- 117952

P R 010816Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2202

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHERAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES -- BOAT CASES

REF: STATE 240076

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 15 REFTEL WE BELIEVE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTER IN HONG KONG WOULD BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE. ALTHOUGH THE HKG HAS THE ORGANIZATION AND FACILITIES TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN OPERATION, IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY POINT OUT THAT GIVEN THEIR PRESENT POLICY OF RETURNING CHINESE ESCAPEES BACK TO THE MAINLAND, IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO JUSTIFY TO THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY AND TO THE PRC REPRESENTATIVES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR PROCESSING VIETNAMESE ESCAPEES. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT THE PRC WOULD REALLY OBJECT TO SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THE HKG WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE FIRMLY RESOLUTE IN REJECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY KIND OF REFUGEE OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG OTHER THAN TO THAT WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO.

2. WE HAVE CONFERRED WITH INS HONG KONG ON THE QUESTION OF P-7 PROCESSING CONTINUED IN PARA 13 REFTEL AND BELIEVE THAT CHINESE P-7 APPLICATIONS WOULD, FOR THE PRESENT, NOT AFFECT VIETNAMESE APPLICATIONS SINCE THERE ARE NO CHINESE NUMBERS AVAILABLE AND THIS SITUATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE NOTE THAT HONG KONG IS THE ONLY CENTER IN ASIA WHERE APPLICATIONS FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY MAY BE PROCESSED. APPLICANTS ARE INTERVIEWED ACCORDING TO THEIR FILING DATE WITHOUT REGARD TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WHEN VISA NUMBERS ARE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, SINCE MAY OF 1975, VISA NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR CHINESE CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY LIMITED. INS HAS BEEN ABLE TO APPROVE ONLY 1528 CONDITIONAL ENTRIES FOR CHINESE DURING FY 76, INCLUDING

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THE 3 MONTH TEMPORARY QUARTER. THIS LIMITATION IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT ONLY 20,000 IMMIGRANT VISAS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EACH COUNTRY IN ANY GIVEN YEAR. THE 20,000 NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR CHINA HAVE BEEN QUICKLY USED UP BY APPLICANTS IN HIGHER PREFERENCE CATEGORIES. IN VIEW OF THIS PROBLEM, INS HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO INTERVIEW NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES OUT OF TURN WHEN VISA NUMBERS, AS AT PRESENT, ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR CHINESE APPLICANTS. THIS HAS NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE CHINA WAITING LIST SINCE NO PURPOSE IS SERVED BY INTERVIEWING CHINESE APPLICANTS WHEN NUMBERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. WHEN VISA NUMBERS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR CHINESE APPLICANTS INS MUST REVERT TO THE PROCEDURE OF INTERVIEWING BY FILING DATE. THE CURRENT WAITING TIME IS APPROXIMATELY 14 MONTHS.

4. IF A REFUGEE CENTER WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN EITHER JAPAN OR THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE INS HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED OFFICES, CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICATIONS COULD BE FILED THERE. BY DESIGNATING EITHER TOKYO OR MANILA AS AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO FILE CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICATIONS A NEW WAITING LIST WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY CREATED. THIS LIST WOULD BE SEPARATE FROM AND ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO THE WAITING LIST MAINTAINED IN HONG KONG FOR CHINESE APPLICANTS. THE ADVANTAGE WOULD BE THAT BOTH CHINESE AND REFUGEES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES COULD BE PROCESSED IN AN ORDERLY FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED MANNER ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER.

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ATHENS
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JAKARTA
KUALA LUMPUR
LONDON
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